

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12261

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TPHY, PINT, UR,US

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PHYSICIST REPORTS ON SAKHAROV, SOVIET
PHYSICISTS, AND DISSIDENTS

1. AMERICAN PHYSICIST CHERTOK, WHO ATTENDED TBILISI HIGH ENERGY
PHYSICS CONFERENCE, MET JULY 28 WITH SCICOUNS AND SHARED FOLLOWING.

2. PARTIICPANTS OF ABOVE CONFERENCE WERE SURPRISED TO FIND
ACADEMICIAN SAKHAROV IN ATTENDANCE. HIS WIFE WAS ALSO THERE.
CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS ATTENDANCE WERE UNCLEAR AND DEPARTMENT
MAY WISH TO CONTACT CHERTOK, WHO HAS RETURNED TO U.S., FOR FURTHER
DETAILS.
OTHER SOVIET PHYSICISTS PARTICIPATING WERE GERSTEIN, ZELDOVICH
AND MIGDAL.

3. CHERTOK STATED THAT CONFERENCE WAS MAINLY MADE UP OF "OLD CATS
AND ACADEMICIANS." YOUNG PHYSICISTS HAVE TO RELY ON
PROFESSIONAL OSMOSIS TO HEAR SCIENTIFIC NEWS. COMMUNICATIONS
IS A VERY GREAT PROBLEM SINCE SPECIAL MATERIALS (PREPRINTS, RE-
PRINTS AND INTERNAL REPORTS) SENT FROM U.S. ARE SELDOM PASSED FROM
MORE SENIOR RECIPIENTS TO LESS SENIOR WORKERS.

4. CHERTOK ALSO MADE CONTACT WITH DISSIDENTS IN KIEV AND MINSK
WHERE HE LECTURED ON HIS RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR PHYSICS. HE SAID THAT
MARK LUTSKER, WHO RECENTLY WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON, WAS
REPORTEDLY TOLD BY KGB HE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO EMIGRATE.
THIS, DISSIDENTS IN KIEV FEAR, MAY BE NEW POLICY. OTHER
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DISSIDENTS CHERTOK MET WERE COL. OVSISHER, VINEROV AND HESS.

5. CHERTOK WAS TOLD THAT OFFICIAL COUNT (PASSPORT HOLDERS) OF JEWISH POPULATIONS IN KIEV AND MINSK ARE 189,000 AND 49,000 RESPECTIVELY. ACTUAL NUMBER OF JEWS WAS ESTIMATED TO BE DOUBLE. MOST JEWS LIVE COMFORTABLY BUT IN FEAR OF THEIR OPENLY ANTI-SEMITIC NEIGHBORS. SOME YOUNG PEOPLE WORRY WHAT PROFESSIONS TO ENTER IN ORDER TO MORE EASILY FIND JOBS IN U.S. IF PERMITTED TO LEAVE USSR AT SOME FUTURE DATE. CHERTOK ADVISED ONE YOUNG MAN THAT HIS CHOSEN FIELD OF PLASMA PHYSICS SHOULD OFFER NO DIFFICULTIES IN SUCH AN EVENTUALITY.

6. CHERTOK MAY BE REACHED AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN WASHINGTON UNTIL OCTOBER WHEN HE RETURNS TO SLAC AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY. STOESEL

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